(a) whether the Ministry has mooted a proposal for setting up of a national resource centre on drinking water and sanitation;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether India is thinking of utilising the technical expertise for this from any other country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is proposed to set up a National Resource Centre on drinking water and sanitation by drawing upon the expertise available within the country. Outsourcing of professional internationally will be done on specific subjects. The centre would serve as reference point and repository of expertise on water supply and sanitation.

Request of Andhra Pradesh regarding Food for Work Programme

1622. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA :
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Centre to permit it to draw rice under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana Scheme (Food for Work) till September, 2002; and

(b) if so, the Centre's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during August, 2002 for extension of time limit for lifting of foodgrains allocated under the Special Component of Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yojana till September, 2002. This Ministry accordingly allowed extension of the validity period for lifting of rice upto 30th September, 2002.